

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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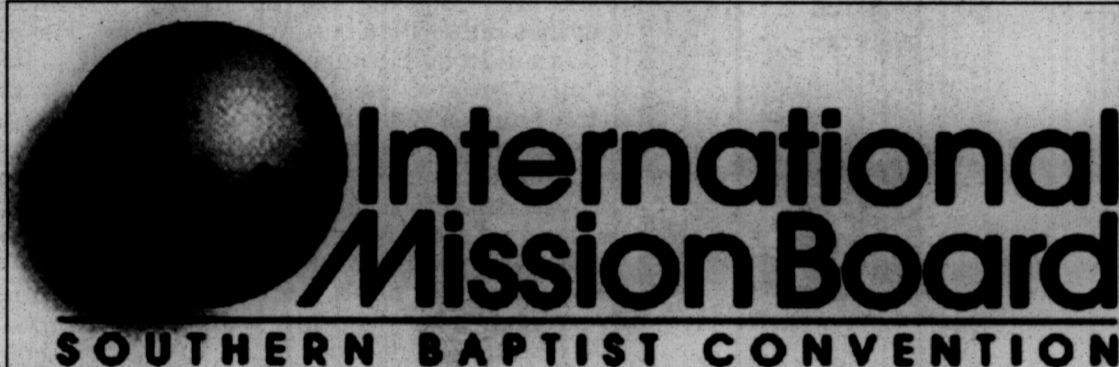
No. 20

IMB eliminates jobs, delays workers

RICHMOND, Va. (BP, ABP, and local reports) — The Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) in Richmond, Va., on June 10 eliminated 61 full-time, part-time, and vacant positions, in an effort to keep the agency's 2003 expenditures in line with anticipated income after gifts to the Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions fell short of the established goal.

In addition to reducing the number of staff in its Richmond headquarters, IMB also has imposed limits on the number of new workers that will be sent out this year and next. Approximately 100 candidates who hoped to begin long-term missionary careers this year have been deferred to next year or put on hold. The number of new short-term personnel also will be reduced by 30% this year.

Both management and support positions in Richmond were affected by the reduction. The staff reduction was the second step taken



"The \$10 million figure is the one we're working on because the books are closed on the offering and that's a hard figure," said IMB President Jerry Rankin. "We won't know until the end of the fiscal year how much investments will bring us." The IMB's fiscal year ends Dec. 31.

"The decisions to reduce staff and hold back new missionaries were extremely difficult to make," said IMB President Jerry Rankin, a native Mississippian. "This has been a painful process, and every effort had been made to minimize the impact of budget reductions. Many of the stateside employees who are leaving have given many years of devoted service to the IMB."

"It hurts to lose people who are not only colleagues and co-workers, but friends with bills to pay and families to feed. We are like family, every one passionately committed to the cause of reaching our world for Jesus Christ."

Since 78% of the IMB's \$268.8 million basic operating budget provides support and benefits for mis-

sionaries and staff, there was no way to avoid an impact on stateside staffing in reducing expenses, Rankin said.

Employees losing jobs will receive outplacement assistance and severance packages. Prior to the action, the board had just over 500 positions on its job register. In order to continue to give priority to its overseas ministries and support of missionaries, a number of products, resources, and services also are being suspended. Perhaps the most significant action to reduce products and services will be suspending IMB's flagship magazine, The Commission. Printing and postage costs for the publication totaled \$800,000 in the 2003 budget. The board will continue to publish the online version of the magazine.

Gifts to Lottie Moon offering from Mississippi Baptist churches, given through Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, were \$6,885,094.36 in 2001, and \$7,194,307.22 in 2002.



READY TO SERVE — Robert and YoungOak Farmer receive their certificates of missionary appointment from International Mission Board (IMB) President Jerry Rankin during a Jan. 10 service at Lakeview Church in Auburn, Ala. Budget woes are forcing IMB to eliminate jobs and postpone some missionary appointments as cost-saving measures. (BP photo by Roy M. Burroughs)

by board leadership in the past week to reduce expenses and prevent deficit spending. On June 5, IMB leaders announced limits on the number of new workers that will be sent overseas in 2003 and 2004.

The steps were taken after the 2002 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering fell almost \$10 million short of its \$125 million goal, complicating a financial situation already stressed by declining investment income and a rapidly increasing missionary force.

IMB spokesman Mark Kelly said the agency will not release the names of the 37 people who lost their jobs "to respect their privacy," although he added the dismissed employees are not prohibited from releasing that information themselves. The employees will receive outplacement assistance and severance packages.

While the Lottie Moon Offering's \$10 million shortfall is the only figure so far released by the IMB, total deficit is almost certain to be considerably larger. Like many Baptist agencies and institutions during the stock market's boom years, the IMB relied heavily on investment income and was hit hard by the downturn in the economy.



HOW WILL THEY GO? — Though they may not understand how God could use them to reach a lost world for Christ, a young family kneels to tell God they are available to Him during an Aug. 2, 2002, missionary appointment service at Glorieta, a LifeWay conference center in New Mexico. Lack of funds has led to downsizing at the International Mission Board and delays in the appointment of new workers for an indefinite period of time. (BP photo by Sandy King)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Summer is here; just look around church

School's out and summer has arrived. In the South that means everyone's calendar is filled to overflowing with special activities and events. Many families hardly have time to turn in school books before taking up their planned summer fare.

Everyone gets to sleep late, for a change. Newly-minted high school graduates plan their senior trips. School spirit T-shirts have been traded in for baseball and softball uniforms. The sound of pinging bats is everywhere. Summer ball leagues compete for practice space with soccer true believers. It's almost impossible to get a decent tee time at the most popular golf courses. As the thermometer mercury inches toward the century mark, we seem to pick up more activities rather than cutting back.

With most ball leagues wrapping up play around the end of June, many families will hit the road for summer vacations. Interstate highways will be clogged. Motels will be filled to capacity. Theme parks will be standing room only, and national parks all across the country will be displaying their "no vacancy" signs. Every sight worth seeing will be filled with sightseers, from the Grand Canyon to Dunn's Falls.

Then there are the special family events that roll around every summer: reunions, June weddings and anniversaries, and the like. Already, out-of-staters are pouring into Mississippi with colorful, uniformly identical T-shirts revealing family names and reunion locations. Sometimes the art on the T-shirts is very good, while other times it's not. It's the thought that counts.

In the rush of summer and the brimming calendars it creates, many of us seem to forget to include church. School may be closed and baseball season may be just about over, but church goes on year-round. Whether we are present or not, the church is open every Sunday. Whether we are teaching our Sunday School class or tending our regular spot in the nursery, church goes on during these hectic summer months.

A glance at the attendance of most worship services in Mississippi Baptist churches

over the last couple of weeks is revealing. Good seats are available, to coin a phrase. The choir is depopulated, at least temporarily. The hallways are deserted. Summer attrition has kicked in.

Yet the whole building must still be cooled, regardless of attendance. The lights have to be on. The preacher still has to preach. The worship leader still has to put the service together. Everything must proceed as usual, whether or not we are there.

Indeed, we should be there.

Another church activity that proceeds unabated during the summer months is bill-paying. Of course, churches make financial plans on the basis of an annual budget, so very few churches go out of business because of the summer slump in giving. Still, budgets may be calculated annually but bills must be paid monthly.

The summer giving slump comes at a particularly bad time this year, with the national economy struggling and incomes reflecting that struggle. Many churches were already behind in giving when compared to the same point in previous years, before summer kicked in.

The Mississippi Cooperative Program last month slipped behind budget for the current fiscal year, and while the programs of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board will likely weather the budget problems from an annual standpoint, there are still summer bills to be paid right now.

"I LOVE YOU BEING A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER. PEOPLE AUTOMATICALLY THINK I'M GODLY WITHOUT ME HAVING TO DO ANYTHING!"



When giving to the Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions fell below the goal in 2002, leaders at the International Mission Board (IMB) in Richmond, Va., knew cuts would have to be made. Those cuts were probably made more severe, however, by the slump in giving as summer set in.

"It is painful to be reducing staff and holding back missionaries when there are so many missions opportunities around the world and God is moving in such dramatic ways," said IMB President Jerry Rankin.

As we make our summer plans this year and every year, let us remember the most important parts of this special season: attending church and continuing to support our churches' programs year-round. We should be available and willing to help our churches, regardless of the month on top of the calendar page.

Satan doesn't take the summer off, and neither should we.

What is going on at Goodwater Church, Magee? In a four year span they have participated in five mission trips to Ukraine, three to Haiti, and two to Silver Springs, MD where they aided a Haitian congregation. They have shared Christ through medical and dental clinics, Bible Schools, day camps, and construction work. They have sought God's heart and answered his call to opportunities for missions.

On April 13, 2003, Goodwater Pastor Brent Barker returned from Kherson, Ukraine on his ninth mission trip. This location served as the base from which they ministered in seven area villages. The participants all received assistance from Cooperative Program funds for the mission trip. Participants included Bettye Douglas, member of Fair River Church, Brookhaven, handling triage; Dot Terry, member of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, dispensing medicine; Dr. Chip Holbrook examining six-hundred fifty patients while Barker shared Christ with those in the waiting area. Also Tommy Swarts and

GUEST OPINION:

Seeking the Heart of God

By Drewe Llyn Jeffcoat
Correspondent



Roger Thames shared Christ one on one with those choosing eye glasses. Over eight hundred pairs of glasses were dispensed. There was one remarkable instant when two Ukrainian women were simultaneously praying to receive Christ. Talk about leaving with better vision!

Unfortunately, most of the ones ministered to still cannot see the Truth. The Ukrainian people are open and even eager to hear the Gospel message, but the tenets of communism still echo in their ears. The power wielded by the Orthodox Church holds many in the bonds of fear. However, Barker does not let that discourage him. He clings to 2 Corinthians 4:1,

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Someone has to painstakingly sow the seeds; someone else may do the watering, while still another brings in the harvest. Yet it is God who gives the increase.

Though Barker and Goodwater Church are definitely mobilized and focused on missions, their main focus is seeking God's heart through prayer. About four years ago Barker and his congregation began seriously asking God to reveal His heart to them. The more they prayed, the more God did just that by opening doors of opportunity to get involved with missions. The more they became involved with

missions, the more fervent their prayers became, and the more they began to capture God's vision for themselves and the world. Barker quickly points out that God is not only answering their current prayers, but also the prayers offered by those who have worshipped at Goodwater since its beginning in 1888. His own life and ministry is steeped in a family heritage of prayer.

When asked what his future plans are Barker replies, The Bible says that the steps of a righteous man are ordered. As a child of God our passion should be to do the will of God. Jesus said, My food is to do the will of him Who sent me. The thing that satisfies the child of God is the will of God. As we obey him, then He deems us trustworthy and gives us assignments.

What is going on at Goodwater Church, Magee? Some very exciting things are happening, but mostly it is God keeping His promise, Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart (Jeremiah 29: 12-13).

Same sex marriage rulings set to rock U.S.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — America's social conservatives fear that a cultural battle is on the horizon, the likes of which could rival the debate over abortion.

Sometime this summer, they say, the highest state court in Massachusetts may make homosexual "marriage" legal, leading to a cultural war over the definition of marriage that could impact Senate judicial nomination battles, the Constitution itself and next year's presidential election.

Canada, they say, is a case in point. On June 10 the Ontario Appeal Court changed the definition of marriage from a union of one man and one woman to "the voluntary union for life of two persons to the exclusion of all others," saying that Canada's definition of marriage violated the country's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Almost instantly, homosexual couples across the province held wedding ceremonies, claiming that Canada's cultural battle over homosexual "marriage" was finally over. It is not known if the ruling will be appealed, although The Boston Globe reported that Prime Minister Jean Chretien's government seemed hesitant to do so.

Canada's ruling is sure to add to what is already a growing debate in the United States over the controversial issue.

If the Massachusetts high court rules for homosexual "marriage," American social conservatives will use the rulings as evidence of liberal judges run amok, pro-family forces will push for a constitutional amendment banning homosexual "marriage," and the 2004 presidential nominees will be asked to state their beliefs on the issue.

The Massachusetts case is part of the reason the Federal Marriage Amendment — which would add an amendment to the Constitution defining marriage as solely between a man and a woman — was recently reintroduced in the House of Representatives.

It's also the impetus behind the Massachusetts legislature's effort to head off the court and pass a state constitutional amendment against homosexual "marriage," but the state's citizens may not back the effort.

A Boston Globe/WBZ-TV poll showed that 50% of the state's adults supported allowing homosexual "marriage," while 44% opposed it. Additionally, in a Boston Herald poll, only a third of the state's voters support a state amendment protecting marriage. Both polls buck nationwide trends showing that a majority of Americans favor an amendment to the U.S. Constitution (see graphic on this page).

If the plaintiffs in the Massachusetts case win, social conservatives say, homosexuals will flock to the state, get "married" and then sue in their home state for recognition of their Massachusetts license. In Vermont, 85% of the state's legalized homosexual civil unions are by out-of-staters.

Alliance for Marriage President Matt Daniels, whose organization backs the Federal

Marriage is the union of a man and a woman

Agree
62%

Disagree
26%

Don't know
12%

Source: Wirthlin Worldwide Nationwide Study

Margin of error: ±3.1%

Marriage Amendment, predicts the Massachusetts court will rule in favor of homosexual "marriage." The issue "is about to explode nationally," he told Baptist Press.

"The minute the Massachusetts court destroys marriage, you will see lawsuits to force this on all the states," he said.

Even if the Massachusetts high court rules against homosexual "marriage," Daniels said, cases in other states, including New Jersey, are pending.

Robert Knight of the Culture and Family Institute, an affiliate of the Concerned Women for America, said that the New Jersey high court makes the Massachusetts high court "look downright conservative." The New Jersey case has yet to make it to the state's high court, but will likely end up there, Knight said.

"I'll be stunned if both Massachusetts and New Jersey do not legalize homosexual marriage," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religions Commission, which supports the Federal Marriage Amendment. "These are radically liberal courts."

Technically, the 1996 federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) prohibits the federal

Record

government from recognizing same-sex "marriages" and protects states in the event that another state legalizes such a union. With it, states are not required to recognize another state's homosexual "marriage" laws.

However, if the Massachusetts court rules for the plaintiffs, homosexual activists will sue to overturn DOMA, Daniels said. To make the legal issue more complicated, homosexual activists could file suit claiming that the U.S. Constitution's Full Faith and Credit clause requires national recognition of their "marriage."

In the coming years, one of two things will happen, Daniels said: "... either we will see marriage destroyed in the name of false constitutional arguments by the courts" or "we are going to see the American people amend the Constitution to protect marriage for future generations."

MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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Orthodox power rising

OSLO, Norway (BP) — Authorities in Russia have granted the Russian Orthodox Church unique access to government institutions such as schools, the army and prisons in recent months, according to Forum 18 News Service. This situation exemplifies a larger trend of the Russian Orthodox Church partnering with Russian authorities in attempt to control religious expression, said John Moldovan, who was recently named associate professor of evangelism and intercultural studies at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Despite the advances of Orthodoxy in Russia, however, new laws in the former Soviet republics of Belarus and Turkmenistan are proving hostile toward Russian Orthodoxy, according to Forum 18, an Internet news service focusing on persecuted Christians and other religious groups in the former Soviet Union and its satellite states. Russia's 1993 constitution declares the country a secular state free from any compulsory or state religion. Forum 18 reported that the Russian authorities have no plans to offer other religious groups, including evangelists, similar access to government institutions. Commenting on the idea of opening interfaith chapels in Russian train stations similar to existing Russian Orthodox chapels, Valentin Temakov, assistant editor of the Moscow Patriarchate's publishing department and coordinator of the railway chapels project, told Forum 18, "We take a negative view of the idea of affording the opportunity of holding prayer services at stations and airports to passengers professing other faiths. Orthodoxy is the state-forming religion and it is inappropriate to talk about some kind of democracy and equality of confessions in this context."

Looking back

10 years ago

During the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in Houston, Bo Hammock, pastor of Providence Village Church in Butler, Fla., presents a motion asking that the SBC unseat messengers from President Bill Clinton's home congregation, Immanuel Church, Little Rock, Ark.

20 years ago

During the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Pittsburgh, the issue of women's ordination surfaces but messengers refuse to make it a convention issue. The approved resolution affirms women's role in ministry but contains no reference to ordination.

50 years ago

Pearl River Association hosts an county-wide youth revival at the Picayune Municipal Stadium. Three thousand youth attend the reviva, which featured keynote speaker Chestor Swor. There are 108 rededications, 11 professions of faith, and 29 decisions for full-time Christian service.

SBC gathers in Phoenix for annual meeting

The 2003 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention was held earlier this week in Phoenix, Az. The meeting did not take place in time to be included in this issue of The Baptist Record.

For complete coverage of the convention's 146th session, be sure to read the June 26 issue of The Baptist Record.

THE DARK CAN BE ENLIGHTENING

From the days of our childhood to the latter days of life, most of us do not like the dark. In fact, in today's world, it seems we do everything possible to eliminate the darkness. Unlike our forefathers and mothers, who were not able to hang lanterns on the ears of their horses, we have powerful headlights on our cars that drive away the darkness hundreds of feet in front of us. We can even go to the store in the middle of the night, or we can attend a nighttime ballgame and it almost seems like daytime.

We seem to work hard at getting rid of the dark, because most of us just simply don't like the dark. Oh, I'm certainly aware that the Scripture says that, "men love darkness rather than light, for their deeds are evil." I'm also aware that that verse is referring mainly to our moral condition and that we do not want to be exposed. A lot of us are probably like the little girl who woke up in the night hours and became afraid, so she went in to her mom and dad's room. As the little girl's mother took her back to her room and tucked her in her own bed, she calmed and reassured her that everything was okay. As the mother started to leave, the little girl asked her mom to please leave the light on. The mother told her no, that she needed to turn the light off. She assured the little girl that she would be all right in the dark and that there wasn't any-

thing to be afraid of. Still, the little girl insisted that the light be left on, telling her mother, "I'm not afraid of the dark when the light is on!"

There is a lot to be learned and much to be appreciated about the darkness. Recently, I got home from work long after the sun had gone down. I had wanted to go walking, but when I finally arrived home, it seemed to me like it was too late, too dark, and I was too tired. Yet, I decided to go walking anyway, thinking that even though I was tired, walking would be better for me than just sitting. So, I headed off out into the darkness. It was just me and the night. No one else was out, at least that I saw, and there were very few cars coming and going.

I was barely a fourth of a mile down the road when I began to experience some wonderful blessings out of the darkness. The first thing I noticed was **sounds**. The sounds of the night were so alive! Close by, there was a small lake out in the woods, or maybe it was just a big pond, and it sounded to me like there were ten thousand frogs in concert. You don't hear the frogs singing in the day, but oh what a choir they form when the darkness comes! I couldn't understand their words, but their music was beautiful!

On occasion, you could pick out the bass section. Then, at other times, you

could hear some soprano voices. They all blended together beautifully as they kept on singing. Living in a world where some music sounds more like talking than it does music, and where some singers don't seem to be able to carry a tune in a bucket, I thought to myself that someone ought to record this beautiful harmony and they would probably make a million bucks! I also thought to myself how sad it was that I was the only one out in the darkness enjoying this incredible serenade!

The second blessing that came to me out of the darkness was the **sights**. I was walking down a road where there were trees on either side and then, occasionally, there would be an opening and a large grassy area. It was in that open area that I gazed in awe at God's natural lighting system. Lightning bugs! Lightning bugs like I had not seen in years were all over the field. Hundreds of them, blinking off and on! I began to think back, and I thought I remembered there being many more lightning bugs when I was a child than there are now. I recalled how we would go out at night and chase them around the yard, catching them and putting them in jars just to watch

them blink off and on. But, then I thought, maybe there are still just as many lightning bugs now as when

I was a child. It's just that it has been such a long time since I had walked out into the darkness without a light of some sort that overpowered the light from these little creatures.

I, like too many of us these days, am too busy, have got too many important things to do, too many places to go, and too many problems to solve, to stop for a few minutes and see what God may be doing in the darkness.

One other great blessing that came that night as I walked along was a blessing packaged as **smells**. This particular smell was so sweet and refreshing, and lingered in the air so long that I just had to stop. Squinting my eyes in the darkness, I could see all along the side of the road. It was honeysuckle vines and they were dispensing their sweet fragrance to anyone who would come along. Well, not anyone seemed to be coming along — just me! Oh, every once in a while there would be a car passing by going 50 or 60 mph, so I doubt that they smelled any of the fragrance — but I sure did!

I walked on some distance further and ran into a different fragrance, one that I had not enjoyed in years. This fragrance was so strong that I stopped and looked around for its source also, because I knew the smell and I knew that there had to be a Mimosa tree somewhere nearby. Sure enough, there it was, hanging out over the edge of the right-of-way, filling the night with its special scent — another wonderful smell bringing back memories of days past.

As I was returning back to the light of my home, coming out of the darkness, I began to reflect on the sights, sounds, and smells that I had encountered, when it seemed as though I heard the Lord bring to my mind that special verse from His book, "Be still and know that I am God." I paused and gave thanks as I rejoiced in the wonder that He is God of the daylight hours as well as God of the dark hours of the night!



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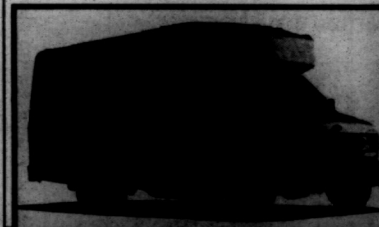
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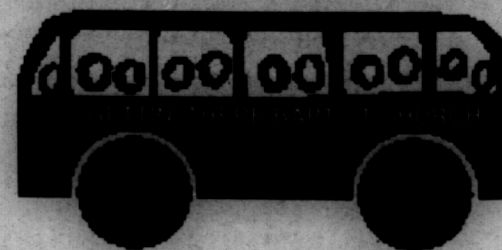
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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 19, 2003

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

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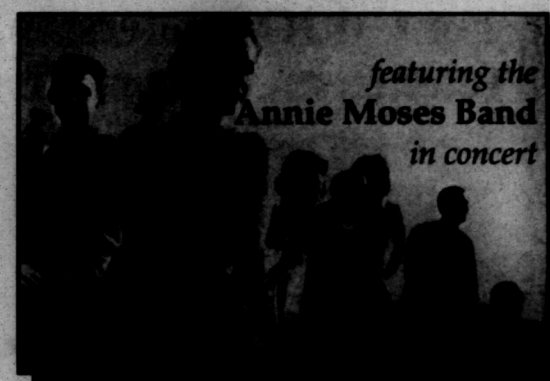
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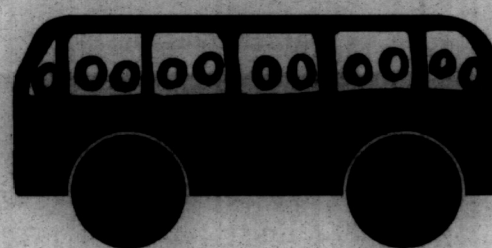
FBC, SENATOBIA
August 19
6:30 - 9:15 p.m.

CAMP GARAYWA
August 22-23
3:30 p.m.

FBC, WIGGINS
August 26
6:30 - 9:15 p.m.

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 - Adults on Mission
 - Women on Mission
 - Churchwide Missions
- Acteens/Youth on Mission
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Registration form available at www.mbc.org, or call the Mississippi WMU at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 317 or 601-292-3317



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June 27-28
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Camp Garaywa

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Cost: \$48 per person (double occupancy), includes 1 night lodging and 3 meals)

CWJC Retreat Registration Form

Registration Deadline: June 13

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Phone (night) _____

CWJC Site _____

Please make check payable to MBCB and memo CWJC Retreat.

Mail to:

Mississippi WMU, CWJ Retreat,
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

You may register online:

www.mbcch.org

Questions? Call Sandra Nash at
601-924-9205, or the Mississippi WMU
at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 317.

GOAL: \$1.5 MILLION

With 57% of Mississippi completely unchurched, evangelistic efforts in the state are of vital importance. Your gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering fund evangelistic efforts by helping start new churches, reach language, ethnic and culture groups, minister to prison inmates, minister to college students and their families, and assist associations with local mission projects.

For more info, contact Debbie Sills, Mission Strategy, MBCB, 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3320.

ROCK THE PLANET CHURCH IN PEARL ROCKS TO THE DOXOLOGY. This church may have different music, a different dress code, and reach a different group of people than traditional churches, but the Message is still the SAME!

GA Father/Daughter Overnight

Under the influence

Mississippi Baptist

Youth Night

Mississippi Coliseum

Jackson

July 25, 2003

6:30-9:00 p.m.

Jake Gullledge
Worship Leader

Stuart Hall
Speaker

***PLEASE NOTE: DATE/PLACE CORRECTIONS AREA KEYBOARD FESTIVALS - 2004

NEW LOCATION: Area 8, Thursday, January 29, 2004 (Formerly at FBC, Hattiesburg)

William Carey College, 498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg (Festival Leader: Kathy Vail, phone 601-381-6051 at the school,

NEW DATE: Thursday, January 29, 2004 (Formerly listed on Friday, January 31, 2004)

Highland Baptist Church, 3400 27th Street, Meridian (Festival Leader: June Williams, phone 601-482-0191 at the church.

Lord, you are... Gulfshore Music Leadership Conference

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
July 10-12, 2003
228-452-7261



Classes offered for:

- worship
- keyboard
- preschool/children's choirs
- handbells
- orchestra
- youth music



CALVIN MILLER
Camp Pastor
Professor of Preaching
and Pastoral Studies
Beeson Divinity School
Birmingham, Ala.

- For program information, contact the Church Music Department at 601-292-3267 or 1-800-748-1651.
- For registration information, contact Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 228-452-7261

Single Again Conference

Saturday, June 21, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
FBC Laurel



BREAKOUT CONFERENCES

Widows by Sharon Barham, Laurel
Divorce by Wayne Hudson, VanCleave
Single Parenting by Dot Day, Hazelhurst
Singles/Never Married by Derrick Tennant

For more information, contact Ronney Joe Webb, 601-649-5710



Live the Voyage of life with passion...

A Passion for Christ!

JULY 14 - 18

For more info, call the Discipleship & Family Ministry Department at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at 601-292-3305.

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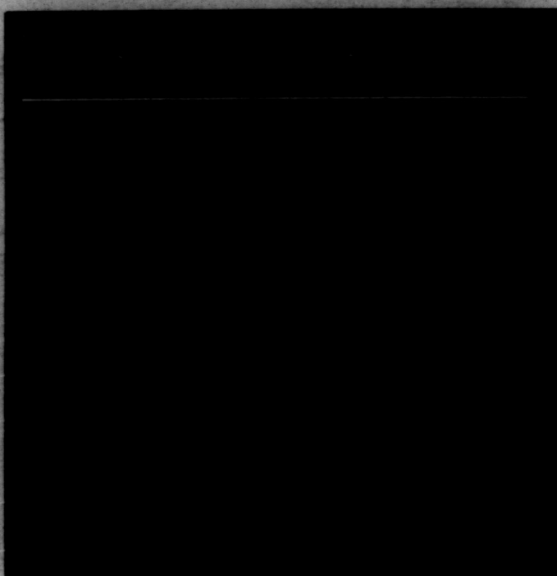
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"Building a Transformational
Sunday School"

A Sunday School training event for all age groups



Specialized Conferences

- Pastor/Staff Conferences
- Discipleship Conferences

Give Your Sunday School the Strength that It Needs!

**Longview Heights
Baptist Church, Olive Branch**
Saturday, August 23
9 a.m.-noon

First Baptist Church, McComb
Saturday, August 23
9 a.m.-noon

&
**Country Woods
Baptist Church, Jackson**
Saturday, September 13
9 a.m.-noon

Conference leaders include
Mississippi Baptist consultants,
equippers, and special guests.

NO COST!

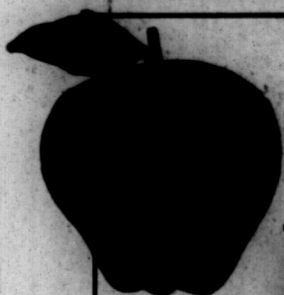
Preregistration deadline
is July 23, 2003.

For more info, or to register, contact:
Sunday School Department, MBCB
601-292-3291 or 1-800-748-1651

TEACHER APPRECIATION & PRAYERWALK FOR SCHOOLS Sunday, August 3

- Commitment Service • PrayerWalk
- Commission as "Teachers of Purpose"

For info sheets on *PrayerWalking Local Schools* for principals, for pastors and for participants, call 601-292-3324 or E-mail KBurns@mbcb.org. Order *Prayerwalking Key Chains* from www.prayerclosetministries.org or call Kevin Meador at 601-635-2180.



Pray this day for...

June 20 - July 10, 2003

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith, and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety."

George Mueller

For: (1) Adopt-an-Annuitant Sunday (Annuity Emphasis); (2) Pray for F., a neighbor of a Baptist missionary who went to church with her recently. It was her second time to visit an evangelical church. She said, "Your church is different. People were really learning about God. I come back with you so that I can learn, too."

Baptist representative to Romania, Kara Kelley, is state-side receiving medical treatment. Pray for her doctors to find the correct treatment/therapy for her. She writes, "I am having new faith in Him increased daily. Pray that soon my problem will be resolved and that God will redirect my path back to Romania!"

For: (1) Citizenship & Religious Liberty (CAC Emphasis); (2) John W. Henry, Lucedale, Miss., is associational missionary and volunteer chaplain for the George and Greene Association. Pray for volunteers to lead discipleship classes and literacy classes in two prisons.

For: (1) GA Camp, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 23rd - 27th (WMU); (2) Summer Missions Camp for Boys (Grades 4-12), Central Hills, Kosciusko, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., 27th (MM); (3) Please pray for President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt (northeastern Africa).

For: (1) Children's Bible Drill Camp, Central Hills, Kosciusko, 2 p.m., 30th - noon, July 2nd (D&FM); (2) GA Camp, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, June 30th - July 4th; (3) Pray today for Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen of Finland (northern Europe).

For: (1) Summer Missions Camp for Boys (Grades 4-12), Central Hills, Kosciusko, 10 a.m., 7th - 1 p.m., 11th (MM); (2) GA Camp, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 7th-11th, (WMU); (3) Pray today for President Jacques Chirac of France (western Europe).

For: (1) Young Musicians' Camp, Gulfshore, 24th-28th (CM); (2) In March, 34 Communist Party members from Chengdu, China, left for the United States to study business management. Pray that these will get the opportunity to hear the gospel and that all of the walls of atheism will be broken down!

For: (1) Family Enrichment Conference, Gulfshore, 1st - 5th; (2) Twenty villagers recently attended church-planting training in north India. Pray that they will be effective in church planting and that God would abundantly bless their efforts.

Please remember the special emphasis across Western Europe in 2003, the "Year of the Bible." Many evangelical organizations are laboring together to give Europeans access to the Word. Pray for these efforts that hearts will be receptive and that many people will come to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

A missionary in Scotland shares that God has been opening her eyes to the spiritual darkness pervading the inner-city area of Drumchapel in Glasgow. As friends have shared experiences, she has seen where the Evil One is at work. Pray that hearts will be open to the message of Christ and that Satan will lose his grasp on these people.

Two young couples in Colombia have sought to deepen their walk with the Lord through small group Bible study. One shared how hard it is to carry his Christianity into the workplace. Pray that Christians in the professional world will let Jesus be Lord of their lives seven days a week.

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS, 9th - 11th; (2) A small team of students is doing survey work among the Silti of Ethiopia. Pray that they would receive a warm welcome from the people and have opportunities for good conversations about spiritual things.

Ken Welborn of New York, N.Y., is executive director of Christian Ministries to the United Nations. The first African Union Heads of State prayer breakfast will be July 10 in Mozambique. Pray that the gospel is proclaimed, lives will be changed, and that God will heal their land.

Colin Powell has presented to the prime ministers of Israel and Lebanon the Road Map that the U.S., the European Union, the U.N. and Russia have put together to bring peace to the region. Pray for all the leaders involved, that God will see fit to bring about a solution to this difficult situation.

For: (1) Music Leadership Conference, Gulfshore, 10 a.m., 10th - 1 p.m., 12th (CM); (2) Pray for five university Muslim students who recently received New Testaments. Ask God to reveal the truth they read, calling them to faith in Jesus Christ, the Living Word of God.

For: (1) Lad/Dad Weekend Camp, Central Hills, Kosciusko (MM); (2) VII Youth Conference, Gulfshore, 20th-24th (MBCB); (3) Russell Wood is a chaplain at Good Samaritan Mission in Jackson, Wyo. Pray that Jesus would use him and his wife, Yvonne, to help many who are caught up in drugs and alcohol.

For: (1) Single Again Conference, FBC, Laurel, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (D&FM); (2) The situation in Iraq remains difficult. Pray for the stability and security of Iraq. Pray for the safety of those involved in the relief effort. Pray for their protection as they assist those in need.

Frank and Chita Drinkard, missionaries in Dominican Republic, write: "We praise the Lord for the professionals who are attending a Bible study in our home. Pray for their wisdom and courage to pursue a personal relationship with Christ and to live an active, vibrant and victorious Christian life where religion is little more than a tradition."

During the first two weeks of July, a volunteer team from the U.S. will be going to Argentina to teach pastors and leaders of the Patagonia people how to use the Life Application Bible in evangelism, church planting and discipleship. Pray for the volunteers and those who attend.

Pray that the Lord would work in the small cells (home-based congregations) in urban poor neighborhoods of Uruguay. Ask that the people would be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives and that these cells would multiply and grow into healthy congregations.

For: HeartSong '03 Youth Music Camp, Gulfshore, 5th-9th (CM); (2) The newly identified believers among the Digo people of Kenya and Tanzania as they begin meeting together. Ask God to give them the strength to withstand the hostile nature of other world religions among which they live.

25th Anniversary Family Week at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Events:

- Ice cream/watermelon fellowships
- Night swimming
- Bar-b-que cookout
- Wednesday afternoon festival with space walks, super slide, clowns and much more fun
- Thursday FREE DAY

Special Guests:

- Robert Stevens & Lion's Roar Band (10 members), Biloxi
- Gospel Singing
- Clowns/Patriotic Program by Jan Halford, Jackson, and Gwen Williams, "Miss Chocolate" New Orleans

Tues., July 1, thru Sat., July 5

Registration - 2 p.m., Tuesday

Adjourn - 9 a.m., Saturday

Pastor for the week:

Eric Thomas, FBC, Vicksburg

FAMILY WEEK COST PER PERSON ROOM/MEAL/RESERVATIONS

"A" Unit	
Adults	\$179.50 ea.
Youth (12 yrs.-18 yrs.)	\$177.00 ea.
Child (2-11 yrs.)	\$ 90.00 ea.
Under 2 yrs. old	No Charge
"C" Unit	
Adults (18 yrs./up)	\$159.50 ea.
Youth (12 yrs.-12th Grade)	\$ 97.00 ea.
Child (2-11 yrs. old)	\$ 60.00 ea.
Under 2 yrs. old	No Charge

Family Week or Senior Adult Retreat Registration

Name of Adult(s) _____

(For Sr. Adult Retreat ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Couple)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

(For Family Conference: Children's names/birthdays _____)

Church _____ Association _____

Registering for: ☐ Family Week or Senior Adult Retreat ☐ I ☐ II ☐ III ☐ IV

Amount Enclosed: _____

Mail to: Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571
(Visa/MasterCard are accepted.) For more information call 228-452-7261.

Make checks payable to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.

(Note: No Skateboards, roller-blades or skooters)

Deposit: \$40 per person or \$80 per family

HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD

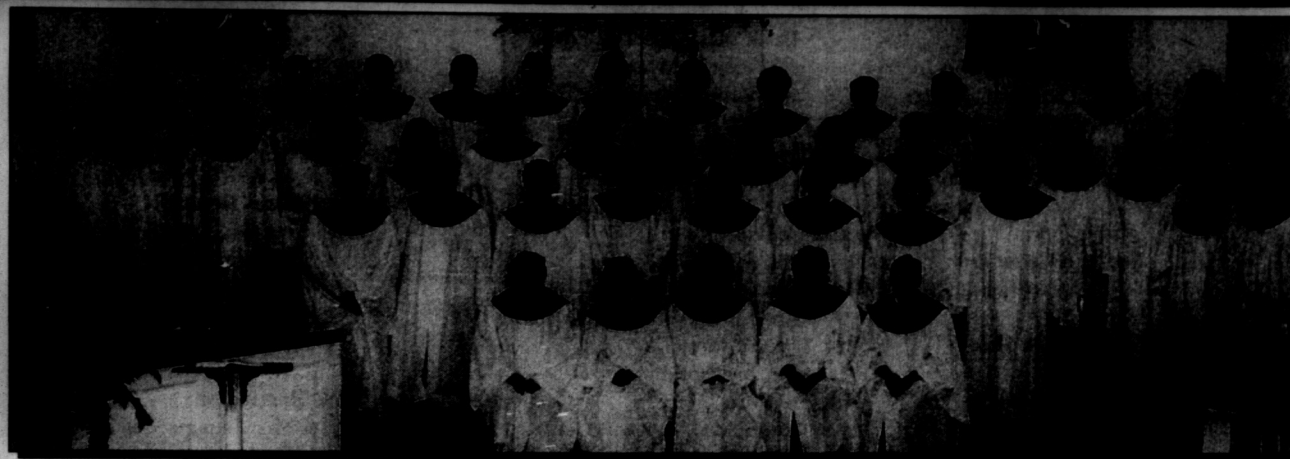


Spooner
Musical ventriloquist Lee Pitts-Spooner and her vent pal, Micky, will present a VBS kick-off program Sunday, June 22, at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. at First Church, Vancleve. Greg Potts, pastor.

Highpointe Church, Raymond, will dedicate their new church building June 21 at 10 a.m. Fred Fudge, Broken Arrow, Okla., speaker; Jerry File, pastor.

Greater Vision will be singing at First Church, Fulton, June 22 at 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Call (662) 862-3207 for information. Tommy Winders, pastor.

A reception honoring Jimmy Jeffreys for 50 years in ministry will be held at Shiloh Church, Big



Adult Choir of Clarke Venable, Decatur

Creek, on June 22, 2 - 4 p.m.

The Gospel Echoes, Pearl, will present a gospel singing at Thomastown Church, Thomastown, Sunday, June 22, 6 p.m. Call (662) 289-7767, (662) 289-1692 or (662) 290-0166 for more information. Dwayne H. Dunaway, pastor.

Zion Hill Church, Wesson, will host the Night of Praise

Summer Tour Concert June 20 at 7 p.m. The concert includes the music of Price Harris, the Bennetts, and the Flowers Family. Call (601) 643-9985 for more information.

Fernwood Church, Gulfport, will hold VBS June 23-29, Mon. - Fri. 6:30 - 9 p.m.; commencement service Sunday, 6 p.m. Call (228) 896-4556 for information. Jim Kultau, pastor.

The children's choir of Clarke Venable Church, Decatur, presented the musical Son Seekers on May 4. Pictured are the 1st-3rd grade choir, and the 4th-6th grade choir.

The Sanctuary Choir of Clarke Venable Church, Decatur, presented their musical, The Mighty Cross, in April. Alex Craft is the music director.



4th - 6th grade Children's Choir of Clarke Venable, Decatur



1st - 3rd grade Children's Choir of Clarke Venable, Decatur

HOMECOMINGS & REVIVALS

Providence Church, Jayess: July 20; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch, noon; concert by Jubilation in worship and following lunch. N. F. Greer, speaker; Stephen Smith, pastor.

Mt. Pleasant, Raleigh: June 22-27; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. with lunch at church; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m. Tommy Anderson, speaker; Latrelle Crumpton, music; Carey Bass, pastor.

First, Lake: June 22-25; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Bob Rogers, First, Rincon, Ga., preaching; Jerry Peagler, Macedonia, Brookhaven, music; Ken McLemore, pastor.

Tinsley, Tinsley: June 22-25; Albert Gray, Eden, Yazoo City, speaking; Robert Biggs, pastor.

CLASSIFIED ADS
Rates: 20¢ per line per week. Minimum 10 lines. No cash on delivery. No advertising on Sundays. No classified ads. ONLY PAYMENT BY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

ATTENTION MINISTERS and self-employed. Finally affordable health insurance; call (662) 568-3482.

HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, CUSTOM church windows, reworking and repair, Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

PASTORS, TEACHERS, CHURCH STAFF. Quality Health Insurance, Call today for a free quote. Quentin E. Adams (601) 594-5676, quentinadams35@hotmail.com.

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A BRAND NEW KING Orthopedic mattress set. NEW in plastic, only \$189. Call (601) 209-0872.

LEESVILLE - FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH: Full-time youth and recreation minister. Send resumes with photo to: Youth Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church of Leesville, P.O. Box 1568, 1400 Nolan Trace, Leesville, LA 71446; or email fbcleesville@wnonline.net.

SLEIGH BED, BRAND NEW IN BOX. SELL \$250. Call (601) 209-0872.

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BYNE MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH IN Albany, Georgia, is now actively seeking a senior pastor. Interested pastors are asked to contact the chairman of the pastor search committee at the following address: Donald Lanier, 1318 Gail Avenue, Albany, GA 31707. Information about the church can be viewed at www.byme.org.

BROKEN AND COLLAPSED TOMBS rebuilt; statuary repaired and cleaned. Scottish trained stonemason, (662) 258-3664 or email msguild@aol.com.

GATLINBURG GETAWAY: 2 BR/2 BATH, full kitchen. Walking distance to parkway. \$65/night, call for information at (251) 666-2175.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, BELLS, Tennessee is searching for full-time minister of youth and children. Send resumes to First Baptist Church, c/o youth and children's minister search committee, P.O. Box 206, Bells, TN 38006. Any questions call (731) 784-3807.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, MERIDIAN. Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations to (601) 483-7958 or call (800) 368-2705.

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, Inc., old Bibles rebound. Also church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call (662) 453-7424 or fax us at (662) 455-6743. Located at 107 North Stone Avenue, Greenwood, MS 38930.

BRANSON, MISSOURI CONDO, WALK-IN, sleeps six. Two Bedroom, two bath, special rates - dinner tickets for anniversary, birthday, groups welcome. Call (662) 746-4632.

EUREKA SPRINGS ARKANSAS, GREAT passion play package, complete with lodging, tickets, and meals, at lowest rates! New family cottages also. Full details at www.kellersresort.com or (479) 253-8418.

HEALTHY, GROWING CHURCH seeking two full-time positions; youth minister and children's minister. Send resumes to East Side Baptist Church, 718 E. Ninth Street, Mountain Home, AR 72653 or mikeshy@coxinternet.com. Visit our website: www.esbcmh.com.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN LOG CABINS near Pigeon Forge. (251) 649-3344 or (251) 649-4049, www.hideawayprop.com.

1985 MCI 47 PASSENGER MOTOR coach, 8V92 Detroit diesel, 5 speed manual trans, dual air conditioners, TV-VCR, restroom \$29,500 cash or \$7,500 down. Twenty four payments of \$1,230. Call John McCommon, Cline Tours (800) 233-5307. Will finance with 25% down, 24 monthly payments of principal and interest. With approved credit, etc., call for details.

1989 MCI 47 PASSENGER MOTOR coach, 8V92 Detroit diesel (new engine), auto trans, dual air conditioners, TV-VCR, restroom, \$42,000 cash or \$11,000 down. Twenty four payments of \$1,750. Call John McCommon, Cline Tours (800) 233-5307. Will finance with 25% down, 24 monthly payments of principal and interest. With approved credit, etc., call for details.

1992 MCI 47 PASSENGER MOTOR coach, 8V92 Detroit diesel (new engine), 5 speed manual trans, dual air conditioners, TV-VCR, restroom, \$49,000 cash or \$12,000 down. Twenty four payments of \$2,042. Call John McCommon, Cline Tours (800) 233-5307. Will finance with 25% down, 24 monthly payments of principal and interest. With approved credit, etc., call for details.

MISSISSIPPI POSITIONS AVAILABLE

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH COLUMBUS, Miss., is currently accepting resumes for the position of Interim Director of preschool and children's ministries. Please mail resumes to P.O. Box 829, Columbus, MS 39703, attn: Robyn Gaydon.

SLAYDEN BAPTIST CHURCH, Slayden, Miss., (Marshall Association) is seeking an interim music/worship leader. Please contact the church office at (662) 252-4559.

PART-TIME CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR needed at First Baptist Church of Byram. Call (601) 372-3156.

MID-SIZED CHURCH SEEKING PART- time (potential full-time) minister of music, SteepHollow Baptist Church, Poplarville, Miss. Two Sunday morning services plus Wednesday night services. Must lead adult choir. Please call (601) 795-4638 or fax resume (601) 795-4696.

NEW SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH, Columbus, Miss., is seeking a bivocational or part-time youth minister. Send resume to: New Salem Baptist Church, 7086 Wolf Road, Columbus, MS 39705. For more information email newsalem-baptist@msn.com or call (662) 356-4940.

WALTON COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION is seeking a Director of Missions. Send resume to DOM search committee, c/o Terry Smith, 1901 State Hwy. 2 E, DeFuniak Springs, Florida 32464.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF Taylorsville, Miss., is currently accepting resumes for the position of full-time Director/Minister and education. Please send resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 357, Taylorsville, MS 39168, attn: search committee.

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

FEBRUARY 1 - 15, 2003

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Mrs. Jeanette Nobels Burris Causey
Mrs. Marian R. Tadlock
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Dixon
Mrs. Martice B. Travis
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis E. Hughes Sr.

Joyce Chamberlain
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Travis "Uncle Dick" Clanton
Mr. Robert T. Stewart

Gene Allen Clements
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Mrs. Olive Clippinger
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Mark Colbert
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Nichols

Mrs. Doris Cole
Mrs. Ralph E. Van Namen
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Sorrells
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Taylor
Peggy & Mack Wilkerson

James Nick Cole
Staff of Circuit Clerk's Office

Tommy Cole
Tracey & Bubba Foster

Mr. Charles Rayford Cooksey
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The Jim Ballard Family
Ms. Lillie M. Toler
Mrs. Lucille Bodie
Ms. JoAnne T. Whitten

Mr. Jack Davidson
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Kastorff
The Jerry Grahams
The Sanford Hollidays
Grace Porter
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Helen Drennan
Jill & Robbie Armstrong
Mrs. Rachel B. Parker
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Elwood Duck
Mr. & Mrs. D. M. Dixon
Mr. & Mrs. Murray Higgins

Mrs. Ripple Dulany
Mr. & Mrs. W. Vernon Ferrell

Mr. Clarke W. "Sonny" Duncan
Mr. & Mrs. Henry M. Burkhalter

Barbara Durrance
Ms. Mary W. Knight

Mrs. Margaret Dyer
Dr. & Mrs. Reggie Broom

William Earnheart
Ms. Damie B. Brenholtz

Mrs. Cleo Easterling
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan

Mrs. Lillian Lee Haggard Eaves
Mr. & Mrs. Prentiss G. Cox
Dr. & Mrs. Linuel D. Jayroe
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BSF SSC, Liberty BC

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Ms. Imogene J. Miller

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Mrs. Mattie Fortenberry
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Mr. & Mrs. James R. Doss

Mrs. Artie T. Frederick
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Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins

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Clara Louise Garth
Lisa & Ben Powlett

Brian Geiger
Mrs. Jerrie S. Foote

Pauline H. Gibson
Mr. Clyde Gibson

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Mr. & Mrs. James Griffin
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Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges

John Hagerman
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Mrs. Marguerite Hall
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Betsy Hancock
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Mr. D. M. Hankins
Ms. Rachel J. Sullivan

Johnnie & Olene Hardin
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Mr. Robert N. Stockett

Mr. John Griffis Hardy
Mrs. Dit P. Johnson
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Agnes Logue Harper
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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Fellowshipping Together

Acts 2:42-47; Ephesians 3:14-4:1-6

By Karen Hollowell

As God's community of grace, the church is to come together as one body, united in Christ, to experience the joy of Christian fellowship. Fellowship is often thought of as something that occurs only upon certain occasions or in certain places. Fellowship can occur at parties, at church, and other places, but it is not automatically present just because Christians are in a room together. Jesus told His disciples that "where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them" (Matt. 18:20).

Fellowship is not something we can put on externally. We can imitate the New Testament church and appear to be the same, but there must be Spirit-led internal changes within

each individual in order to know the fellowship about which Paul wrote.

We should get much comfort from the knowledge that God has joined us together to be one. The seven "ones" are given in Eph. 4:4-6: one body, one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father. We are made one body by the empowering of the Holy Spirit, we have one hope, faith, and baptism by the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, and have one Father: God. These "ones" are shared by all believers.

Unity does not mean conformity in regard to opinion or expression. Unity is displayed by this "oneness" and can be manifested through the variety of spiritual gifts that we exam-

Hollowell

ined in last week's lesson. Differences of opinion on church matters does not mean that fellowship is absent in a body of believers, just as unanimity doesn't indicate that it is present. Unity is evidenced by a body of believers who seek to know God more completely, who

desire that His will be accomplished, and who love each other. We must "be rooted and established in love" (Eph. 3:17). How do we maintain this unity? We are told this in verses 2 & 3 of Ch. 4: "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." This isn't always easy. Many of us struggle to have patience and gentleness with others. Satan also knows this, and uses our lack of the fruit of the spirit to cause division and strife in our churches.

Sadly, we can attend church

together, eat dinner or visit with other Christians in their homes, and still not experience real fellowship. One definition that I have read for fellowship says that it is "the love that fills (or should fill) the hearts of believers for each other and for God." When you read Acts 2:42-47, you can see the evidence of this love that they had for each other. Everyone used their money and possessions to help those in need, they were willing to be taught by the apostles, and they met in each others' homes to break bread and praise God. Best of all, they were glad to do these things. They enjoyed each other's presence. They took joy in worshipping and praising God together! God blesses this genuine fellowship. Many miracles occurred at this time through the apostles, and "the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved" (v. 47). Ephesians 3:18 & 19 tells us that together we can "grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ", know the love that sur-

passes knowledge, and be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." Imagine a worship service where this takes place—everybody as one coming to a deeper knowledge of God, of His power and mercy, and having a desire to be like Him!

This fellowship and unity is still as important now as it was when Jesus prayed before His arrest, "I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you... I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me (John 17:20-23). May our fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ be an answer to this prayer.

Hollowell is member of Crosby Church, Crosby.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Enjoy Christian Relationships

Galatians 3:15-4:7

By Kiley Young

I can still remember that day in Junior High school when we were asked to fill out a registration form for extracurricular activities. They wanted to know our interests and desired activities. There was a question that puzzled me somewhat. It was not hard to puzzle me as an eight grader. It asked my religious affiliation and whether or not I was a Christian. I asked one of my friends I thought might know such answers and he said, "They just want to know what church you belong to. He said you are a Baptist that means you are a Christian." I said, "O. K.", answered their question and thought little more about it. In reality, being a Baptist no more makes you a Christian,

than the keeping of Old Testament law and being circumcised can make one a believer. It is about a relationship with Christ and not a religious preference.

Paul wanted the churches of Galatia to the proper role of the law; it was their salvation, nor could they earn righteousness by keeping the law; neither can we.

Appreciate the Past (vv. 3:21-25)

The law did have a purpose, but that purpose was not to impart life. The Mosaic law is good, pure and true, but it has no capacity to give life. The law was given to reveal sin. The law was given because of our transgressions. It was given to reveal our sins and point us to Christ.



Young

We are to be grateful to the law for leading us to Christ, but we are not to be bound by the legalism of the law. No one can earn righteousness by keeping of the law, because no one can keep all of the law all of the time.

Acknowledge Your New Family (vv. 3:26-29)

God has done through Christ what we could not gain through the law. We become "sons of God" gaining membership in the family as we put our faith in Christ. Apart from the saving faith in Christ, all human beings are enemies of God. It is only when we exercise our faith that we gain the privileges of the family of God.

When we become a part of the family, we set aside the clothing of the former life and we put on a new wardrobe. The believer has laid aside the dirty garments of sin and put on the new robes of righteousness. This is done as an act of faith, and not a result of keeping the law. As we receive this new

wardrobe, we identify more with our new "family" as we are all 'one in Christ.' The Pharisee would pray each morning, "I thank Thee, God, that I am a Jew, not a Gentile; a man, not a woman; and a free-man, and not a slave." All of these distinctions are removed "in Christ" We join the family as "heirs" according to the promise" As Paul states as children of God are "heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ" (Romans 8:17). We are "heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:7).

Accept Your New Privileges (vv. 4:1-7)

Paul wanted those in the churches of Galatia to fully understand their position as "heirs" of the promises of God. Formerly they were as children in bondage of the law. They were under the guardianship of the law. In the Jewish home children were under guardianship of a servant. It was not until they had come of age that they could enjoy the privileges of a son. Paul says Christ came to

redeem those who were under the bondage of the law that we might have all the privileges of being an heir of the promises of the Father. God the Father sent God the Son to die for us to redeem us from the bondage of the law, our bondage to sin. Then God the Son sent God the Spirit to live in us to teach us how to live as sons of God, heirs of His promises. We are sons of God in freedom, not slaves to the law. Sons have the nature of the father, slaves do not. Sons have a father, slaves have a master. Sons obey out of love, slaves out of fear. The sons has the inheritance of the father, slaves are poor. The son has a future, the slave does not. We have a Father who loved us enough to send His only Son to pay the price for our disobedience that we might have the opportunity to experience His love, forgiveness, and eternal promises.

Young is the director of the Sunday School Dept. at the MBCB in Jackson.

Studies designed for women in ministry

Final of a two-part series

IRVING, Texas (BP) — For women excluded from the senior pastorate by the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message (BFM), why spend time and energy training for ministry in the local church at a Southern Baptist seminary? This question is being addressed by the six seminaries supported by the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program.

SOUTHEASTERN SEMINARY

Dorothy Patterson, the wife of Southeastern Seminary President Paige Patterson has worked to impact coursework at Southeastern with her vision to educate women theologically. In 1998, she introduced to the convention the first accredited program for women in the master of divinity with women's studies degree.

While other SBC schools offer women's programs within the school of education and as certificate programs, this 96-hour degree emphasizes theology and the classical languages as the underlying methodology for implementing women's ministry in the local church.

Southeastern's website states the concentration in women's studies prepares women for Christian leadership positions such as "church staff and denominational positions in which they develop, deliver and/or supervise ministries to women"; missionary and evangelistic work; women's conference ministries; teaching to women the Bible and related disciplines; and advocacy work.

The degree is divided into 42 hours of core classes and 34 hours of women's studies requirements that include courses such as biblical theology of womanhood, biblical interpretation for women and gender roles in the Bible. Another 10 hours is comprised of specialty electives in which students can choose from courses such as women in church history and feminist theology.

The seminary also offers a certificate in women's studies for "non-degree seeking wives of seminary students ... who are preparing for Christian service through local churches or in other ministry settings," according to the website. The certificate totals 12 units while an advanced certificate is offered when students take eight credit hours of college or seminary coursework.

NEW ORLEANS SEMINARY

At New Orleans Baptist, innovative teaching techniques are characteristic of the opportunities available to women seeking seminary training. As developed by Rhonda Kelley, wife of seminary President Chuck Kelley, many classes and workshops are available online.

In addition to distance learning, New Orleans Seminary

offers seven different programs that prepare women to minister to other women in the local church setting. Three different certificates are offered: an eight-hour women's ministry certificate; a 16-hour advanced women's ministry certificate; and a new certificate in excellence geared toward ministers' wives. Beyond certification in women's ministries, New Orleans Seminary also offers an associate in women's ministry that totals 69 hours with 18 hours in women's ministry courses and 51 hours in general education work.

Undergraduate work at New Orleans offers the bachelor of arts in Christian ministry with a minor in women's ministry totaling 126 hours, with two other choices are given for graduate work. The master of divinity with a specialization in Christian education/women's ministry and a master of arts in Christian education with a specialization in women's ministry degrees each require 12 hours of specialization work in addition to core requirements for graduate work.

Coursework at New Orleans Seminary emphasize courses that will give women hands-on knowledge of creating and implementing women's ministry programs in the local church.

These courses include contemporary models for women's ministry; leadership training; public speaking; missions and evangelism; planning special events; recreational programs for women; support groups for women; and women's work in the local church.

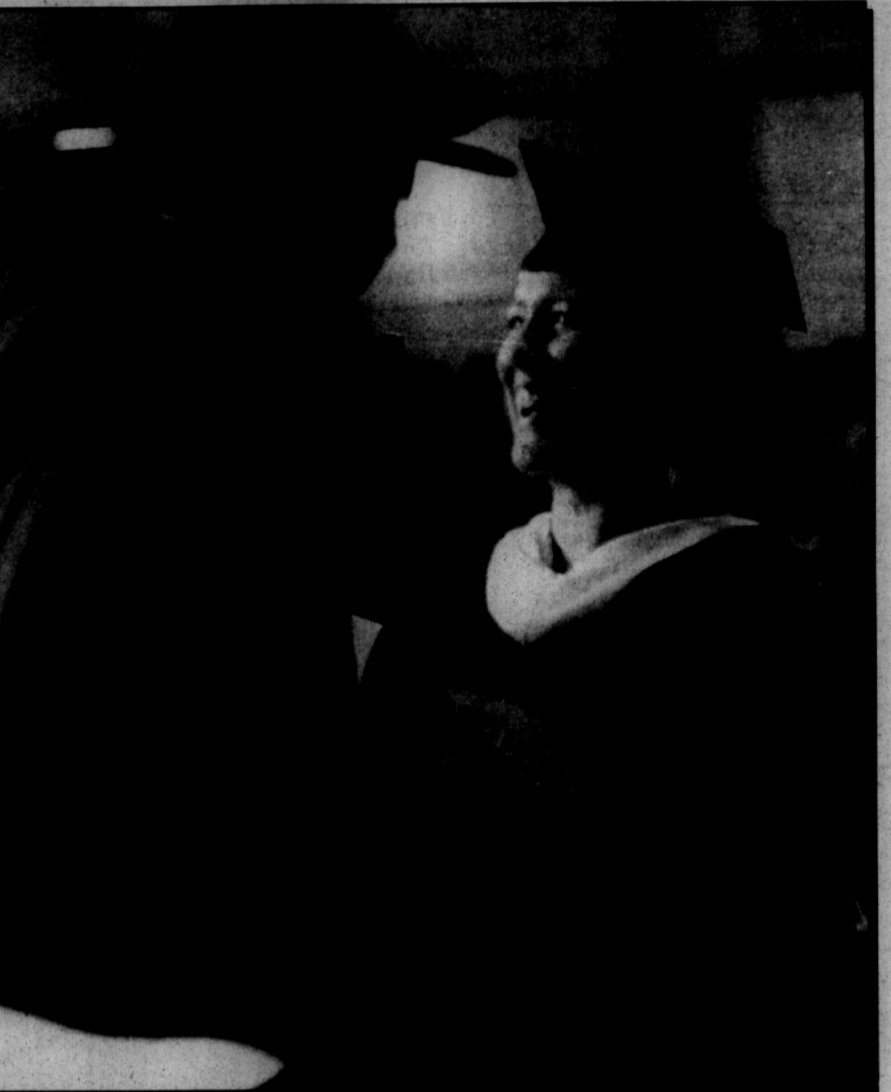
In 2001-02, NOBTS reported 355 female students enrolled on campus; this figure, however, does not reflect the number of women taking advantage of the seminary's online course work.

MIDWESTERN SEMINARY

Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., also is actively equipping women to work in local church settings. The seminary's website states that through its diploma wives studies program, a non-degree, student wives are given the opportunity to "enhance spiritual, practical and essential skills necessary for effective service as a ministering wife."

In 2001-02, the school reported 160 female students on its main campus, while 171 were enrolled in the ministering wives program. The previous academic year, the seminary experienced a peak year in enrollment for the non-degree program with 247 women enrolled in courses.

Students are required to take 11 hours of foundational core classes that include Baptist heritage and beliefs, marriage



SPECIAL GRADUATE — Southwestern Seminary President Kenneth S. Hemphill awarded a master of arts in missiology degree to his wife Paula while presiding over his final commencement ceremony May 10. Southern Baptist seminaries offer a number of degree tracks for female students that don't involve pastoring a church, since such service is discouraged by the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. (BP photo)

enrichment, and ministry and discipleship courses. Women also choose between Old and New Testament courses and other Bible study tracks.

An additional two hours of the diploma for the ministering wife is selected from WISDOM electives, an acronym for Wives in Seminary Developing Our Ministries. WISDOM classes include practical coursework specific to the future ministry area of the student such as missionary wife; ministry in the church; deaf interpretation; and various music workshops.

GOLDEN GATE SEMINARY

Although Golden Gate Seminary in the San Francisco Bay area does not currently offer a specialized degree for women, it created a position for women's ministry, with Helen Groat of San Anselmo, Calif., named women's ministry coordinator in August 2002.

Groat is responsible for working closely with the women female students at the California seminary and becoming an advocate for their needs. She also will implement campus-wide women's ministries events and advise the campus' existing women's organization.

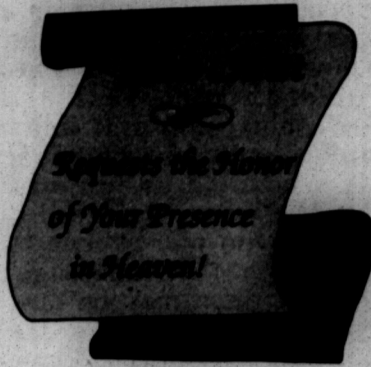
As a Texan, Groat served seven years at Criswell College in Dallas as founder of a ladies

auxiliary and adviser to the Student and Student Wives Fellowship. According to the SBC's Cooperative Program allocation budget ministry reports for 2003-04, Golden Gate reported 143 women enrolled in classes during the 2001-02 school year on its main campus.

As evidenced through the number of degree-, certificate- and institute-type coursework available to women in Southern Baptist seminaries, Baptist women are increasingly turning to seminary education to better equip themselves for ministry, marriage or life in general.

"When I visit with new students one of the first things I tell them is 'welcome to the next level.' Most of the students have grown and matured in their faith, have answered God's call to ministry and are serving Him daily,"

Southwestern Seminary's Terri Stovall said. "Seminary training offers women the opportunity to go to the next level. Seminary education is more than just attending classes and studying for exams. It is sitting under some of the greatest theologians and educators of our time. It is making relationships in ministry that will last a lifetime. It is preparing yourself to answer whatever call God gives you for tomorrow."



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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FN EI, LIPAH YOAQ, OSI
NAI LNUQ PA JTSPFX,
OAU IWISQ NAI YIYLISF
NAI
NR OANXTIS.
SNYOAF XEIDWI: RPWI

Clue: Y = M

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Galatians 4:6